



Dental Public Health Activity Descriptive Report Submission Form

The Best Practices Committee requests that you complete the Descriptive Report Submission Form as follow-up to acceptance of your State Activity Submission as an example of a best practice.

Please provide a more detailed description of your **successful dental public health activity** by fully completing this form. Expand the submission form as needed but within any limitations noted.

ASTDD Best Practices: [Strength of Evidence Supporting Best Practice Approaches](#)
Systematic vs. Narrative Reviews: <http://libguides.mssm.edu/c.php?g=168543&p=1107631>

NOTE: Please use Verdana 9 font.

CONTACT PERSON PREPARING THE SUBMISSION AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

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PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ONE ADDITIONAL PERSON WHO COULD ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROGRAM

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SECTION I: ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Title of the dental public health activity:

Oral Health Workforce Assessment

Public Health Functions*: Check one or more categories related to the activity.

"X"	Assessment
X	1. Assess oral health status and implement an oral health surveillance system.
	2. Analyze determinants of oral health and respond to health hazards in the community
X	3. Assess public perceptions about oral health issues and educate/empower them to achieve and maintain optimal oral health
	Policy Development
	4. Mobilize community partners to leverage resources and advocate for/act on oral health issues
	5. Develop and implement policies and systematic plans that support state and community oral health efforts
	Assurance
	6. Review, educate about and enforce laws and regulations that promote oral health and ensure safe oral health practices
	7. Reduce barriers to care and assure utilization of personal and population-based oral health services
X	8. Assure an adequate and competent public and private oral health workforce
X	9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based oral health promotion activities and oral health services
	10. Conduct and review research for new insights and innovative solutions to oral health problems

[*ASTDD Guidelines for State and Territorial Oral Health Programs that includes 10 Essential Public Health Services to Promote Oral Health](#)

Healthy People 2020 Objectives: Check one or more key objectives related to the activity. If appropriate, add other national or state HP 2020 Objectives, such as tobacco use or injury.

"X"	<u>Healthy People 2020 Oral Health Objectives</u>	
	OH-1	Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents who have dental caries experience in their primary or permanent teeth
	OH-2	Reduce the proportion of children and adolescents with untreated dental decay
	OH-3	Reduce the proportion of adults with untreated dental decay
	OH-4	Reduce the proportion of adults who have ever had a permanent tooth extracted because of dental caries or periodontal disease
	OH-5	Reduce the proportion of adults aged 45 to 74 years with moderate or severe periodontitis
	OH-6	Increase the proportion of oral and pharyngeal cancers detected at the earliest stage
X	OH-7	Increase the proportion of children, adolescents, and adults who used the oral health care system in the past year
X	OH-8	Increase the proportion of low-income children and adolescents who received any preventive dental service during the past year
	OH-9	Increase the proportion of school-based health centers with an oral health component
	OH-10	Increase the proportion of local health departments and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that have an oral health component
	OH-11	Increase the proportion of patients who receive oral health services at Federally Qualified Health Centers each year

	OH-12	Increase the proportion of children and adolescents who have received dental sealants on their molar teeth
	OH-13	Increase the proportion of the U.S. population served by community water systems with optimally fluoridated water
X	OH-14	Increase the proportion of adults who receive preventive interventions in dental offices
	OH-15	Increase the number of States and the District of Columbia that have a system for recording and referring infants and children with cleft lips and cleft palates to craniofacial anomaly rehabilitative teams
	OH-16	Increase the number of States and the District of Columbia that have an oral and craniofacial health surveillance system
	OH-17	Increase health agencies that have a dental public health program directed by a dental professional with public health training

"X"	Other national or state Healthy People 2020 Objectives: (list objective number and topic)	

Provide 3-5 Key Words (e.g. fluoride, sealants, access to care, coalitions, policy, Medicaid, etc.) These will assist those looking for information on this topic:

Dental Workforce, Dental Needs Assessment, Workforce Shortage

Executive Summary: Complete after Section II: Detailed Activity Description. Please limit to 300 words in one or two paragraphs.

Provide a brief description of the dental public health activity. Include information on: (1) what is being done; (2) who is doing it and why; (3) associated costs; (4) outcomes achieved (5) lessons learned, both positive and negative.

In 2016, the Louisiana Office of Public Health, Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health (BPCRHR) was awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) state grant to support the Louisiana Oral Health Workforce Expansion Program which included the following goals: Establish a Dental Rural Scholars Track Program (RST), establish an Oral Health Recruitment Project and conduct a Dental Health Needs Assessment.

A Dental Health Needs Assessment was conducted, which utilized a collaborative approach looking broadly at oral health in Louisiana. The process included: synthesis of existing data on social, economic, and health indicators; scan of existing oral health services and programs; analysis of information from a survey of oral health stakeholders and providers (N=365); and interviews with oral health and medical providers, school nurses, and public health administrators with a medical degree (n=17).

Key Findings

- Overall, the 365 survey participants responded that there is no shortage of dentists serving those seeking access to oral health care.
- Many people choose not to go to the dentist or feel they cannot afford it, especially for preventive care.
- At both the patient and the provider level, Medicaid reimbursements, both the rate and the paperwork, act as barriers to accessing care, contributing to a lack of providers accepting Medicaid.
- Children’s oral health has been improving and the number of children seeing a dentist is increasing, but Louisiana children are still below the national averages according to Healthy People 2020 oral health goals and previous Third Grade Basic Screening Surveys. The results indicated that there is a lot of misinformation about fluoridation being shared with the public, however the data shows majority of providers defend the benefits of fluoridated water.

- There is need for better education about the necessity and importance of preventive dental care, particularly in adults.
- Providing underserved populations access to appropriate dental care is a complex problem. From the limited findings, training more dentists alone to address a “shortage of providers” in dental Health Professional Shortage Area will not be effective in improving access to oral health services.

SECTION II: DETAILED ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Provide detailed narrative about the dental public health activity using the headings provided and answering the questions. Include specifics to help readers understand what you are doing and how it’s being done. References and links to information may be included.

****Complete using Verdana 9 font.**

Rationale and History of the Activity:

1. What were the key issues that led to the initiation of this activity?

In order to understand the challenges and successes related to oral health in Louisiana and to identify how the entire health care community can more effectively address oral health needs, the Louisiana Office of Public Health, Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health (BPCRHR) undertook a comprehensive assessment of the oral health system in Louisiana. BPCRHR engaged state oral health stakeholders and providers in June 2018 and collected data to critically identify dental care workforce shortages and access to care issues. It will serve as a verification of issues that may impact the delivery of oral health services to vulnerable populations in the state. The quantitative and qualitative data presented in this report provides an overview of the key findings, highlights assessment limitations, and concludes with recommendations.

2. What rationale/evidence (may be anecdotal) did you use to support the implementation of this activity?

Over 84% of Louisiana is designated a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) (See Appendix A for Dental HPSA Definition). Shortage areas may be geographic, population or facility-based. There are thirty parishes designated as geographic. Twenty-one are designated low-income population Dental HPSAs according to the U.S. Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). The most current HPSA dental assessment identified a statewide shortage of 201 dentists to serve a population of over 1.8 million.

3. What month and year did the activity begin and what milestones have occurred along the way? (May include a timeline.)

The project began in August 2017. Key partners included the Oral Health Coalition Workforce Workgroup and the Fluoridation Advisory Board which consists of nine regional dentists, provided a greater collaboration of various partners to support the vision for this project. This project raised the awareness of dental HSPAs to many of the survey participants. The completion of the assessment was an accomplishment as this was the first oral health assessment completed.

The sections below follow a logic model format. For more information on logic models go to: [W.K. Kellogg Foundation: Logic Model Development Guide](#)

INPUTS	PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
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1. What resources were needed to carry out the activity? (e.g., staffing, volunteers, funding, partnerships, collaborations with various organizations, etc.)

The Bureau collaborated with the Office of Public Health Performance and Improvement section to lead the implementation of the assessment and the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) to provide epidemiology evaluation support. Well-Ahead LA Oral Health Promotion provided staffing support and involving the Oral Health Coalition and Fluoridation Advisory Board.

INPUTS	PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
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2. Please provide a detailed description the key aspects of the activity, including the following aspects: administration, operations, and services.

To assist the State in preparing for the future oral health workforce needs the BPCRH conducted a needs assessment in coordination with the State Oral Health Program and partner organizations.

The BPCRH enlisted the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) to guide the oral health needs assessment. The LPHI administered the survey, evaluating the results, and publishing.

INPUTS	PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
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3. What outputs or direct products resulted from program activities? (e.g., number of clients served, number of services units delivered, products developed, accomplishments, etc.)

365 participants (including dentists, medical providers, dental hygienists, school nurses, emergency room physicians and public health administrators-who are MDs) completed the survey to complete the assessment.

INPUTS	PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
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4. What outcomes did the program achieve? (e.g., health statuses, knowledge, behavior, care delivery system, impact on target population, etc.) Please include the following aspects:

a. How outcomes are measured?

In order to understand the challenges and successes related to oral health in Louisiana and trying to identify how the entire health and health care community can more effectively address oral health needs, the BPCRH undertook a comprehensive assessment of the oral health system in Louisiana. BPCRH engaged state oral health providers in an assessment process in 2018 and collected data by way of dental needs assessment. The data collected will serve as a verification of issues that may impact the delivery of oral health services to vulnerable populations in the state.

The assessment process included:

- Synthesis of existing data on social, economic, and health indicators
- Scan of existing oral health services and programs
- Analysis of information from a survey of oral health stakeholders and providers (N=365)
- Interviews with oral health and medical providers, school nurses, dental hygienists, and public health administrators (n=17).

b. How often they are/were measured?

The survey was conducted once during the grant period.

Data sources used: Surveys were sent to dentists throughout the state; Dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Maps

- c. Whether intended to be short-term (attainable within 1-3 years), intermediate (achievable within 4-6 years), or long-term (impact achieved in 7-10 years)

It is intended that the outcomes of this grant will be long-term, as long as sustainability efforts continue.

Budgetary Information:

NOTE: Charts and tables may be used to provide clarity.

1. What is the annual budget for this activity?

The assessment and evaluation were conducted once throughout the grant period. The annual grant budget was \$589,404. Of that amount, \$50,000 was allocated to support the grant's assessment and evaluation. This project provides an overview of the supply, issues, and barriers affecting patient access to oral health services. The [final report](#) is available for use by interested communities, organizations, and lawmakers.

2. What are the costs associated with the activity? (Including staffing, materials, equipment, etc.)

Contract (\$50K) with Office of Public Health, Performance Improvement Unit and the Louisiana Public Health Institute Evaluation team for the coordination and evaluation of the needs assessment to include identifying geographic areas and populations at parish levels that lack access to oral health services, experience shortages, experience barriers to access and have health high health disparities. Key partners will be enlisted to create the survey tool.

3. How is the activity funded?

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA Grant # T12HP30537) state grant to support the Louisiana Oral Health Workforce Expansion Program in addressing the oral health workforce needs of designated Dental HPSAs.

4. What is the plan for sustainability?

Workforce activities continue through the Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health, The Well-Ahead Oral Health Promotion and the Louisiana Oral Health Coalition. The Well-Ahead Louisiana Oral Health Promotion will address the priority needs that were identified in this assessment.

There is a new strategic plan to be completed. Workforce is a key component of our access work being covered in the new grant. We've begun state action planning for the new 5-year grant and expect to be completed by August 31, 2019.

Lessons Learned and/or Plans for Addressing Challenges:

1. What important lessons were learned that would be useful for others looking to implement a similar activity? Was there anything you would do differently?

Enhancing relationships in the dental community to gain better support from dental providers. There were several attempts made to obtain participation. Participation from these high need HPSA parishes, especially in northern Louisiana, continues to be a challenge. Participants included only dental care providers and other healthcare providers' perceptions on oral health care. It did not include community and utilizers perceptions. However, there was a variation of partners involved in the overall project. The program would consider bringing together focus groups and conduct regional presentations.

2. What challenges did the activity encounter and how were those addressed?

A major limitation of the assessment was the sample size. There was also a low response from dentists (19%), especially from high need HPSA parishes particularly in northern parts of Louisiana. Additional details are provided in the report.

Overall challenge:

The Great Flood in August and the federally recognized flooding that occurred in 2016. These disasters caused a mass amount of business, schools, etc. closures which shifted priorities and resulted in a project implementation delay.

Available Information Resources:

Share any models, tools, and/or guidelines developed by the program specifically for this activity that may be useful to others seeking additional information. Hyperlink resources if possible.

Final Report:

http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/pcrh/OH_Assessment_Report_8_31_18_final_.pdf

TO BE COMPLETED BY ASTDD	
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